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with the works of other students in the field, whatever the nationality of the writer or the language of his productions. This is not the result of a mere clever facility in padding a book with erudite-seeming references and annotations, but of a genuinely exhaustive knowledge of the subject. The translators have on the whole done very well what must have been a very difficult piece of work. Occasionally a strange word or an esoteric idiom forces the reader to try to think just what the expression must have been in the original.

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*Frontiers of Language and Nationality in Europe.* By LEON DOMINIAN. Maps, illustrations, bibliography, and index. American Geographical Society of New York. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1917. Pp. xviii+375.

Mr. Dominian has produced an admirable book at an opportune moment. He discusses every European boundary whose readjustment on the basis of race or language will probably be an outcome of the present war; and he wisely goes beyond the titular limits of his subject to include the geographical distribution of races in Asiatic Turkey. Therefore, anyone who reads this book will be equipped to follow intelligently the peace negotiations at the end of the war. The author considers language the only reliable and practical basis of nationality, since physical characteristics of race are variable or evanescent. Linguistic boundaries, moreover, in the majority of cases coincide with natural physical barriers, and thus reinforced offer the surest bases for political frontiers. The result is a scientific defensive boundary which makes for peace: the unscientific boundary in an incubator of war. The historical development of each political frontier is traced in its relation both to geographic features and to the linguistic boundary. This historical sketch, with its insistence upon geographic factors, shows the linguistic area characterized also by related social features, such as customs, religion, architecture, and art. These are pure near the center, diluted near the outskirts, where contact with other peoples is made. Regions of extensive race intermingling are discussed in the light of geographic conditions.

Maps of linguistic areas and of linguistic and political frontiers are abundantly interspersed through the text, while statistical tables from official census reports give the general bases of these maps. It is to be regretted, however, that the maps rarely show proportions of constituent

elements of populations in mingled border zones. The linguistic frontier is usually indicated by the old unscientific line dividing areas of majorities. This is particularly unfortunate in the important German-Italian linguistic boundary in the Trentino, where an adequate map should represent graphically the scattered patches or linguistic islands of population on either side of the generalized boundary line. The author commanded the material for such a map in the Austrian census of 1910, cited in his discussion of the two political frontiers, respectively, offered by Austria and claimed by Italy in the early months of 1915, when Austria was trying to bribe Italy to keep out of the war.

The author errs in his statement that "between twelve and thirteen million acres of first-class irrigation land were to be converted into productive areas" in Lower Mesopotamia by the reclamation project of Sir William Willcocks. That famous engineer states in his report that while five million hectares, or 12,355,000 acres of alluvial land in the delta district of Mesopotamia are accessible to irrigating streams, the water supply in the Tigris and Euphrates combined suffices for only three million hectares, or 7,413,000 acres, while the entire reclamation project embodied in his report planned to recover for tillage only 1,410,000 hectares, or 3,484,110 acres, or little less than half the tillage area of Egypt (Sir William Willcocks, *The Irrigation of Mesopotamia*, pp. 5-9, 46-52 [London and New York, 1911]).

Mr. Dominian's book is written in a delightful style, which is characterized by felicitous choice of words and apt turns of expression. An ample bibliography bears witness to his wide research and to his surprising command of languages.

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*The Political History of Poland.* By EDWARD H. LEWINSKI-CORWIN. New York: The Polish Book Importing Co., 1917. Pp. xv+628. \$3.00.

The Polish question has been so completely neglected during the last fifty years that when the present war brought it again into the foreground there was practically no reliable literature in English. Except for a monograph by Professor Lord, not a single book or article published in English could satisfy even the most elementary demands of historical criticism. There was nothing but half-literary sketches and a few compilations based directly or indirectly upon German, sometimes even upon Russian, works, most of which are themselves second or